

# ARTOUR

## Presenter Pack



## **The Bossa Nova Sunset Club**

Written by Anje West

Presented by MadCouch Productions  
feat. The View From Madeleine's Couch

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Bossa Nova Sunset Club

## **COMPANY PROFILE**

MadCouch Productions is the producing arm of The View From Madeleine's Couch, the internationally acclaimed Brazilian music group, founded in 1998 by Anje West and Kym Ambrose. The band has toured nationally, (including a number of regional Queensland tours for Q.A.C.), and internationally to Brazil, most recently branching out into independent production with The Bossa Nova Sunset Club for the Anywhere Festival in 2015. The show sold out its two night run, received fantastic reviews, and has been invited by the host venue to return for another season in 2016.

Anje West is the producer for this event, and aside from managing the band's career over the past 17 years (including overseas tours, successful grant applications and acquittals), has been producing concerts and festivals for Brisbane City Council as a freelance producer since 1999, and independently produces the annual Saideira Brazilian Festival. She currently programs the long-running Clem Jones City Hall Lunchtime Concert Series.

This concert presentation is a distillation of the almost two decades of performing and touring experiences the band has had, and is the first show of its kind in Australia.

## **ABOUT THE SHOW**

With Rio de Janeiro as the backdrop, and one of the most famous songs in the world (The Girl From Ipanema, of course!), at its heart, The Bossa Nova Sunset Club is an intimate and engaging journey through one of the defining eras in modern music. Through songs, stories and beautiful images, the origins of bossa nova are explored in this very personal tale of musical discovery.

Singer and percussionist Anje West and her musical and life partner, vibraphonist Kym Ambrose have drawn many years of inspiration from the music of Brazil, and a career that's seen them acknowledged as one of Australia's best, and longest-lived Brazilian bands.

With a song-list that includes some of the loveliest tunes ever written, behind-the-scenes tales of quirky composers and a phenomenal band, The Bossa Nova Sunset Club brings together a myriad experiences, gathered over nearly 20 years of touring, performing and recording here in Australia and in Brazil.

The show is the first of its kind in Australia, and the band's front-woman, Anje West, is the only performer of Brazilian music in Australia who is not only a superb vocalist, singing fluently in Portuguese, but an accomplished percussionist, playing traditional Brazilian instruments as she sings.

The show weaves stories from the birth of bossa nova in the late 1950's through its chaotic demise in a turbulent political period in Brazil's history in the late 60's, all the while showcasing well-known songs and interspersing Anje and Kym's own tales from their travels and adventures in Brazil.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Writer and director and performer: Anje West

Visual design, musical director and performers: Anje West and Kym Ambrose with musicians Owen Newcomb and Paul Hudson making up the rest of the performing company, and Brett Cheney on sound production and visual projector operation.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **The View From Madeleine's Couch:**

This is a band with its heartbeat in Australia, and its soul in Brazil. For 18 years, 'Madcouch' has performed the music of Brazil (Brazilian jazz, samba, bossa nova, forro, baião), as well as composing and recording original songs deeply influenced by the rhythms and harmonies of Brazilian music.

Founded in 1998 by husband and wife Kym Ambrose (vibraphone), and Anje West (vocals/percussion), the band created their very own niche of OzBrazilian music, and a voice amongst Australian contemporary world & jazz music that is uniquely theirs. There is simply no other band in the country like them, acclaimed here and in Brazil as one of the finest Brazilian ensembles this country has produced.

It's a seductive, elegant and lush sound, underpinned always by the impeccable groove of Owen Newcomb on bass and Paul Hudson on drums, and complemented by the beautiful guitar work of Jamie Clark and Bruce Woodward.

When performing in Brazil, Anje and Kym play with some of the greatest musicians in the country. On drums is Marcio Bahia (Hermeto Pascoal/Joao Donato/Hamilton de Holanda), a legend in Brazil, and considered one of the best drummers in the world. The rhythm section is completed by the great Mazinho Ventura on bass. On their most recent (third) trip to Brazil, their concert tour took them to Belo Horizonte, Niteroi, Goiania and Rio de Janeiro, and included a special invitation to perform with one of Brazil's great jazz guitarists, Dino Rangel.

In March, 2014, Anje & Kym brought Marcio Bahia to Australia as the Saideira Brazilian Festival ambassador to conduct masterclasses and workshops, as well as presenting a series of concerts and festival performances which included shows at the Brisbane Jazz Club and City Hall.

The group is able to tour internationally with either their Australian or Brazilian rhythm section, depending on availability and location. Since 2002, the band has released two EP's and two full-length albums, receiving regular airplay on national & community broadcasters, securing Album of the Week on Radio National and EastsideFM, and won the Queensland Music Award for World Music Song of the Year in 2009, for their track 'Bom Fazer'.

## **PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS**

### **DURATION**

The show is a 70 minute production, no interval.

### **SUITABLE VENUES**

The show is suited best to theatres with the facility to project digital images onto a backdrop behind the band.

### **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK**

4 Performances

### **MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES**

One show per night.

### **LICENCING AGREEMENTS**

N/A

### **APRA OBLIGATIONS**

Original material by the performers is included in the production and all Apra obligations will be met with regard to LPR'S.

### **TOURING PERSONNEL**

The touring party consists of 5 people.

Name	Role
Anje West (Angela Ambrose)	Performer/Tour Manager/Producer
Kym Ambrose	Performer/Musical Director
Paul Hudson	Performer: drums & percussion
Owen Newcomb	Performer: bass guitar and vocals
Brett Cheney	Sound tech/A.V. operator

## **PERFORMANCE HISTORY**

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2014	Woodford Folk Festival	4
2015	Anywhere Festival	2
2015	Bemac Theatre:Jazz Lounge	1
2016	Brisbane Jazz Club	1 (show in Feb 2016)

Much of the musical material in this show has been part of the band's repertoire for many years, with some songs learned specifically for the show.

## **AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT**

### **OVERVIEW**

It will be possible to conduct a community-style singing workshop to learn a Brazilian song, accompanied by traditional Brazilian percussion.

The vocal workshop requires no experience except a love of singing

Participants in the singing/percussion workshop would be invited to perform with the group at the end of the concert.

It may be beneficial to box-office numbers if workshop participants (and their family members) know that they would be participating in the presentation of the show.

### **DESCRIPTION / DETAILS**

The singing workshop is one hr long and involves learning a three-part harmony song in Portuguese, accompanied by some traditional Brazilian percussion. If participants have hand-drums or other percussion instruments, they are welcome to bring them. The song is part of the concert repertoire.

### **COST**

No cost to the participants.

Numbers capped at 20

## **TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The singing workshop is open to children and adults, from beginners to experienced singers.

Audiences can be reached through community networks (schools/community arts groups/choirs and bands), and the workshop promoted simultaneously with the concert event. The workshop must take place at least 6 hours before the concert performance.

## **MARKETING**

### **MARKETING COPY**

#### *One line*

Rio de Janeiro: Songs and stories from the golden era of bossa nova .

#### *Short*

With Rio de Janeiro as the backdrop, and one of the most famous songs in the world at its heart, The Bossa Nova Sunset Club is an intimate and engaging journey through one of the defining eras in modern music. Through songs, stories and beautiful images, the origins of bossa nova are explored in this very personal tale of musical discovery. With a song-list that includes some of the loveliest tunes ever written, (including The Girl From Ipanema and Summer Samba/So Nice), the Bossa Nova Sunset Club is the only place to be when the sun goes down.

#### *Extended*

With Rio de Janeiro as the backdrop, and one of the most famous songs in the world at its heart, The Bossa Nova Sunset Club is an intimate and engaging journey through one of the defining eras in modern music. Through songs, stories and beautiful images, the origins of bossa nova are explored in this very personal tale of musical discovery.

Singer Anje West, and her musical and life partner, vibist Kym Ambrose have drawn 20 years of inspiration from the music of Brazil, and a career that's seen them acknowledged as one of Australia's best, and longest-lived Brazilian bands.

With a song-list that includes some of the loveliest tunes ever written, and behind the scenes tales of quirky composers, The Bossa Nova Sunset Club is the only place to be when the sun goes down.

Anje & Kym lived in Brazil for nine months over three visits since 2004. Their time in Brazil has been spent studying, creating and playing, sometimes with their own band from Australia, and most recently, touring with some legendary bossa nova & Brazilian jazz artists for an 11 date, three state tour over the summer of 2012/13.

The Bossa Nova Sunset Club is a side-project for Anje & Kym. An opportunity to pare things back, weave some tales through extraordinarily beautiful songs, and share some of the beautiful images they've collected, and the passion and love they have for this music, which has filled their lives for 20 years.

## MARKETING SUMMARY

The show has previously been marketed through the Anywhere Festival network paired with social media, print and digital press.

Scenstr magazine ran an interview and review of the concert and these materials are available to support the marketing of the production.

Reviews of the show are available to support marketing and the band is available for radio/print interviews with good quality, high resolution images.

The show is also supported by its own Face Book page, and via the band's website and mailing list (1000 subscribers) plus a band twitter account.

The Bossa Nova Sunset Club is an incredibly accessible show, bringing to light the stories of the birth of one of music's most beloved and popular genres. Audiences this year loved hearing these stories, and with 80% of the audience being new attendees to a MadCouch event, it's clear that there was a great deal of interest generated in the show from music and cabaret/theatre fans, due to the marketing, rather than specifically Brazilian music fans. The producer believes the same interest would be generated in regional audiences, making for a successful touring proposition.

The title of the show, the byline and the promotional material are all very clear with regard to what the show is about. We believe this is one of the reasons the show sold so well this year; audiences know what they're coming to see. The title sells the show very effectively.

## MEDIA QUOTES

*"..the sublime tones of Anje's voice, the liquid gold sound of Kym's vibraphone transport us instantly to white sandy beaches and lazy summer days"*

*"Meeting and playing with many famous Brazilian musicians has assisted them in perfecting their superb contemporary interpretation of the genre"*

Karen Hutt, Scenstr Magazine

## AUDIENCE REVIEWS

*"As a musical style, Bossa Nova is both beautiful and timeless, and the intimate journey that is "Bossa Nova Sunset Club" shows audiences why. It is what sunsets should sound like, with smooth sounds to sooth the soul. Indeed, the show is a sensational celebration"* Review, Stage Door

*"We left your show spell-bound! There is magic all around you...thank you for creating such incredible music"* Audience Review, Deb McMEnamin

## COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

*"They've got the Brazilian spirit, and they're really doing this very well"*  
Mazinho Ventura (Musician, Brazil)

## VIDEO LINKS

We are currently editing a promotional clip. The BNSC was filmed in the Bemac Theatre for their Jazz Lounge series in September, and the clip will be forwarded as soon as it is completed. For a good indication of the sound of the band, and range of material, the following clips are good examples:

<https://vimeo.com/42396472>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4Vuf3XKZ7U>

## IMAGES

Credit: Mish Photography



Credit: Mish Photography



Credit: Polly Snowden





## MARKETING MATERIALS

The finished (high definition), clip from the September 2015 concert will be available for broadcast. The clip will be completed mid-December, and viewable on the band's website at [www.madeleinescouch.com](http://www.madeleinescouch.com) or directly from the producer at the contacts indicated.

Flyers and posters are available in A5, A3 and A1 formats with plenty of room for presenters to add their own information/details, or that can be done by our graphic artist and sent as a completed file to the presenter.

The producer and band members will be available for all press and media opportunities.

*There are no content warnings for this production, no sponsor acknowledgments or teacher's resources.*

*The only critical element is the ability to use projection onto a screen behind the band, with a laptop as the image source*

## **PRODUCTION DETAILS**

### **TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Requirements for this production are a basic band and vocal p.a. setup with projection and screen facility.

This is a cabaret-style show with a lot of music and some story-telling supported by the visual projections which are used through the entire show.

There are no sets.

### **EXAMPLE SCHEDULE**

3:00pm bump in

3:30pm soundcheck and projection/lighting set and check

5:00pm break for meal

6:30pm company call to the venue

7:30pm begin show

8:45pm end show

9:00pm bump out

### **CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE**

Front of House staff: as per the venue's requirements.

If the venue's technical systems are easily accessed and operated by the company's technical operator, it may only be necessary for the venue's tech operator to be there to induct the show's operator, to set the lighting state for the show and instruct on connection and use of projection equipment. Up to 90 minutes maximum for set up.

The show travels with one person to manage sound and AV duties.

### **STAGE**

The show is very flexible in terms of the stages and venues it can be presented in. We do not hang items or use a stage set.

We require a backdrop or scrim onto which images can be projected throughout the show. See images for example of how the show looks.

Minimum stage size: 5m x 4m

If the venue is not a theatre, there must be the facility to darken front of house in order for the projected images to be seen. A large screen and digital projector will be required. We are able to negotiate supply of screen depending on how the show is travelling (air/road etc), and the size of the venue.

*Madcouch Productions to supply:*

Company to supply all instruments, images on a flash drive and a laptop

*Venue to supply:*

Lighting, power, PA, digital projector and screen

*\*The company is open to negotiations regarding the style of venue and whether or not we travel with hired PA and AV equipment to smaller centres.*

## **LIGHTING**

The show requires only a basic lighting set. The images shown throughout the show provide a constantly changing backdrop and are aligned with particular songs and stories. 4 x defining spots, one for each band member and basic three colour wash for the stage. Since the show has not yet toured, nor needed a lighting plot, we currently have a technician designing one for us, and this will be uploaded to the ArTour profile on completion, for inclusion with the Presenter's Pack.

*Madcouch Productions to supply:*

Projected images

*Venue to supply:*

Stage lighting

## **SOUND**

Standard vocal PA with 2 x d.i's, two vocal mics, one percussion mic, two amps (for vibraphone and bass), and minimal mic set for the drums and minimum three foldback wedges.

*Bossa Nova Sunset Club to supply:*

All instruments and amps & associated leads/cables

*Venue to supply:*

The venue will supply the PA.

2 x d.i's, two vocal mics and boom stands, one percussion mic and boom stand, and minimal mic set for the drums (if the acoustics of the performance space require it) and minimum three foldback wedges.

## **AV**

A featured aspect of the show is the visual presentation, facilitated by a digital projector, showing images on a screen behind and above the band.

*Bossa Nova Sunset Club to supply*

Laptop with timed slideshow of images and flash-drive with slideshow as backup for images.

*Venue to supply:*

Digital projector, large screen or screen/backdrop suitable for projecting images onto during the show, so that images are viewed behind and above the band, or to one side of the band if that's where the screen is located. Preference for images to be on backdrop of minimum 5m x 4m.

Producer able to discuss/negotiate size of screen.

## **WARDROBE**

There is no specific wardrobe. The band members dress is smart, with the lead singer/presenter in a colourful evening dress. There is no clichéd costuming in this show.

*Bossa Nova Sunset Club to supply*

All own costumes

*Venue to supply*

Dressing Rooms, cups/glasses and drinking water.

## **FREIGHT NOTES**

If the show is a one-off at a distance too far to reasonably drive, all company members and equipment must be flown, including some large road-cases. It may be possible to hire back-line equipment in some towns/cities.

If the company is touring a number of dates, a small truck or van will be used to transport the band and/or sound equipment (driven by sound engineer), and a car will be used to transport the band-members (driven by band member).

Loading dock access is preferred.

## **CRITICAL ISSUES**

The show must have access to projection/screen facilities.

## **CONTACTS**

*Anje (Angie) West: Producer/Performer*  
0432 710 461 or [info@madeleinescouch.com](mailto:info@madeleinescouch.com)

*Kym Ambrose: Musical Director*  
0413 422 501

## **BUDGET**

Please see budget attached to the presenter's ArTour profile page